

The Indiana House passed Senate Bill 101, called the Religious Freedom Restoration Act on Monday by a vote of 63-31. (4 Republicans voted against the bill). SB 101 was quickly concurred by the original bill author, Senator Dennis Kruse (R-Auburn), on Tuesday and Governor Pence signed the enrolled act into law yesterday morning during a private ceremony. While SB 101 was going through the legislative process, opposition to the bill (mainly from business advocacy groups such as the Indy Chamber and others) warned of potential fallout if it were passed. Almost immediately after the concurrence vote, various organizations and groups threatened to discontinue operations in Indiana because of the bill. A quick response from many central Indiana business and political leaders seemed to calm some of those fears. However, it remains to be seen how much of an impact this bill will have on business and other industry within the State going forward.

House Bill 1540 (Various Gaming Matters) was heard Thursday in the Senate Appropriations Committee. HB 1540 would allow for riverboat casinos to move inland to the adjoining property and also allowed the State's two racinos to have live table dealers. An amendment was offered on Thursday by the Senate Appropriations Chair, Luke Kenley (R-Noblesville) that would push back the implementation of live table dealers for the racinos until 2021. Governor Pence has been on record saying he opposes any expansion of gaming. While his office has continued to offer no specifics as to their definition for 'expansion of gaming', many have guessed live table dealers is an expansion according to the Governor. Postponing the ability of racinos to have live table dealers until 2021 would give the Governor some coverage on his stance (The Governor is up for reelection in 2016, and if he wins, would be in office until January of 2021). The amendment to HB 1540 was offered and adopted by the Committee, however no vote has taken place on the bill as a whole. That will more than likely happen this upcoming Thursday.

We are less than two weeks away from the next round of Committee Report Deadlines. All bills that are not heard in the second Chamber by that point will be considered dead. However, the language could be revived during the Conference Committee process.

Here are some upcoming deadlines for the 2015 Session.

- Thursday, April 9th – Committee Report Deadline for Senate Bills in the House
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- Wednesday, April 15th – Last day for 3rd Reading of House bills in the Senate
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- Wednesday, April 29th – Last day for adjournment (Sine Die)

Below is a summary of actions taken on this week on key bills included in your Bill Track list:

- **HB 1161 (Immunity for Damage Caused by Rescuing a Child)** – Ordered to Engrossment on the bill's 2nd Reading.
- **HB 1242 (Reserve Officer Training)** – Ordered to Engrossment on the bill's 2nd Reading.
- **SB 035 (Speed Limits in School Zones)** – Passed the House on the bill's 3rd Reading by a vote of 96-0.
- **SB 193 (Northwest Indiana Law Enforcement Academy)** – Passed the House on the bill's 3rd Reading 93-0.

- **SB 265 (Purchase of Service Credit)** – Passed the House on the bill's 3rd Reading by a vote of 95-0.
- **SB 313 (Definition of Sexual Conduct)** – Passed the House on the bill's 3rd Reading by a vote of 95-0.
- **SB 380 (Crisis Intervention Teams)** – Heard Tuesday in the House Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee, and was passed with an amendment.

As is our policy, we have attached an updated Bill Track List, with bills that are of an interest to you.

If you would like to see a full copy of any bill, please visit

<https://iga.in.gov/legislative/2015/bills/>

or let us know if you would like for us to furnish you with a hard copy of a particular bill. As you review the bills, please let us know of any questions or comments you have with the legislation that we may not be aware of.